

CLIFFORD HAPPENINGS by Theresa Burgio

2003 Accomplishments of the Clifford Twp. Volunteer Fire Company

First I want to thank you all for your help and support in 2003.

2003 was a tremendous year of teamwork and accomplishments for our department. We have been very proactive. We have steadily moved forward in continuing to build and improve this department. We have an excellent team of line officers in place. On the fire/rescue side of the house, Dan O'Rourke and Scott Seman have been in command of most of the more serious incidents in 2003 from multiple alarm structure fires with collapse, accidents with entrapment to serious haz-mat incidents, and with your volunteer help, have excelled at all of them. Along with that, David Schulte and team have done an excellent job on the EMS side of the house. May I point out, all of our line officers are more than capable of working both sides of the department. And let's not forget William "Bill" D. Harding and his crew of fire police. They are usually in the background and sometimes forgotten but we have to remember they are there to watch our backs and to protect us. To that, we want to say thank you!

These are some of the accomplishments as a department for the year 2003.

We have renewed and strengthened our relationship with Station 24. We have expanded our resources by expanding our friendship and working relations with more departments, not only in Susquehanna County, but also throughout the surrounding counties and states. We received a hose dryer free of charge from a department in New Jersey, thanks to Tom Costello. We found out about an auction of fire equipment in up-state New York that enabled us to purchase five near new Scott 4.5 air packs and a PPV fan about one third of the cost of new.

We continue to be aggressive across the board with fire/rescue/EMS training. The extensive training that has taken place in 2003 has been outstanding. A huge thank you goes to Tom Costello, our training officer. We currently have 16 members participating in "Fire Fighters Essentials" class. These people will be going on to gain their "Firefighters I" certification from the State of Pennsylvania in 2004. When that happens, they will be the first firefighters in Susquehanna County to accomplish that feat.

We are continuing to strengthen our junior program. We now have a group of young people that want to learn and learn the right way. They are our future, and the majority of them are not afraid of hard work as we saw when we replaced over 100' of railroad track and ties last summer.

Under Scott Seman, our chief driver, we have added new drivers to our apparatus. He has also done a tremendous job keeping the apparatus ready to go. He,

along with Ed Kozlowski, was also instrumental in obtaining and building our "plow truck."

Jeremy Randall has done a great job as foreman in keeping our entire equipment ready for the next emergency.

With the help of Trent Turner, five new Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) have been adopted by the Board. And we continue to develop more.

Appointed Ron Tezzano "Safety Officer." Another first for the department. Thank you, Ron, for a great job on the fatal on Rt. 92. He watched everyone's back.

We placed our Scott imaging camera in service. We expanded our "On Scene" radio procedures.

Strengthened our "fast team" requirements by adding a designated company to our box alarm system just for that task. We also updated our box alarms for fire/rescue and added EMS to the system.

We have upgraded our accountability system with new tags, better medical records and new accountability clipboards for the apparatus.

We are proceeding with the application for the QRS designation for R-18. We are waiting for the return of R-18 for the QRS inspection, which is the last leg of the certification process.

We continue to be involved in the Susquehanna County Rescue Task Force.

We put four new sets of gear and two new Scott air packs in service along with the five packs from Baldwinsville, N.Y., and the multiple sets of gear purchased from Forest City Fire Department.